

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action mailed on March 16, 2009. Claims 1-3 and 5-20 are pending in the application with Claims 1, 2, 3 and 9 being in independent form. By the present Amendment, dependent Claim 4 has been cancelled and Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 19 and 20 have been amended. Independent Claims 1, 2, 3 and 9 have been amended to include the limitations or similar limitations to those previously recited by cancelled, dependent Claim 4 of which the Examiner states in the Office Action includes allowable subject matter.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of dependent Claims 4-6 if rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By the present Amendment, independent Claim 3 has been amended to include the limitations previously recited by cancelled, dependent Claim 4. The limitations of cancelled, dependent Claim 4 are believed to recite patentable subject matter and as such dependent Claim 4 has been indicated to be allowable by the Examiner, if rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the objection to dependent Claims 4-6 and the allowance of independent Claim 3 and its respective dependent claims are respectfully requested.

Additionally, independent Claims 1, 2 and 9 and their corresponding dependent claims are believed in condition for allowance due to at least the inclusion of limitations similar to the limitations previously recited by cancelled, dependent Claim 4.

In the final Office Action, Claims 1-3 and 7-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,924,043 issued to Takano (Takano) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,334,047 issued to Andersson et al. (Andersson et al.). Claims 7 and 8 are allowable

over the prior art of record due to at least their dependency from independent Claim 3 which has been amended to include limitations previously recited by cancelled, dependent Claim 4. These limitations were found to recite allowable subject matter by the Examiner. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection with respect to Claims 3, 7 and 8 and the allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Additionally, as mentioned above, independent Claims 1, 2 and 9 and their corresponding dependent claims are believed in condition for allowance due to at least the inclusion of limitations similar to the limitations previously recited by cancelled, dependent Claim 4.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) with respect to independent Claims 1, 2 and 9 and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims 10-20 are allowable over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons presented above for the patentability of independent Claims 1, 2, 3 and 9. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) with respect to dependent Claims 10-20 and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1-3 and 5-20, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

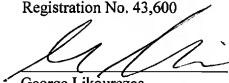
If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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